



# AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP



2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> CO-FUNDED CALL

## FAQs co-funded calls AGROECOLOGY

version 2.0



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## VERSIONS

Version	Date	changes
V1.0	06 Jan2025	initial version
V2.0	10 Dec 2025	Additional questions and answers resulted from call3 webinar, any questions which are specific for call2 (e.g. scope) have been removed.

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## 1 Introduction

This document provides an overview on the questions asked by the participants during the webinars of the co-funded calls conducted under the umbrella of AGROECOLOGY. If chapters and Annexes are cited, this always refers to the current call document which can be downloaded on the submission website or as direct link here: <https://agroecology.ptj.de/>

### 1.1 Eligibility

#### 1.1.1 Topic

**Can a proposal also address a mix of subtopics from topic 1 AND topic 2? Or do we have to stay in one topic?**

You have to tick only one topic, either topic 1 OR topic 2, even if your proposal addresses also issues covered by the other topic. In this topic, you must address at least one subtopic, but you can tick more than 1 subtopic in the submission system.

#### 1.1.2 Eligibility Partners of one consortium

**Can the call for projects involve European-African consortia with funding from Africa partners?**

This is a co-funded call implemented in the framework of the partnership AGROECOLOGY (so-called cascade funding). For this, the funding is provided on national/regional level from the participating Funders only. Thus, applicants have to check, if they are eligible to receive funding from one of the Funders listed in Annex I. All other partners can participate on own resources as associated partner to a consortium.

**Where can the details on eligible organizations in Hungary be found? The information from NKFIH in Annex IX does not outline this. Was there another place for this information?**

There is a link in the call document under eligibility criteria #15.

**Can a Hungarian non-eligible institution participate in a consortium as associated partner?**

This question is not fully answered yet and will be published on our submission website soon.

**What about regions outside of Europe where a lot of agroecological knowledge is built up and knowledge transfer in both directions would be fruitful? How could partners be included?**

Funding can be provided to partners only who are eligible to receive funds from funders listed in Annex IX. All other partners can participate as associated partners at own costs.

**We are a Research facility which has received noncompetitive subsidies from the Government. Are we eligible as a partner for this Call?**

This needs to be checked on bilateral level with the funding agency you plan to request funds from.

**From my understanding the Coordinator is bound to one project within the call. My question: can a Partner (and associated partner) be involved as a partner in two projects funded by this call, e.g.: as this expertise would be ideal to connect the two projects and increase their horizontal width**

From the general eligibility criteria it is possible that a researcher is involved as partner in two different projects. However, there might be restrictions in the funder specific regulations (Annex IX).

**Can one person be PI / Coordinator in one application for one topic, and a partner (not Coordinator) in a 2nd application on the other topic?**

According to the general eligibility criteria this is possible. However, there might be restrictions in terms of the funder specific eligibility criteria. So please check carefully in the specific funding regulations, if this is allowed.

**Can partners be part of more than one proposal?**

Yes, this is possible from the perspective of the general eligibility criteria. Please do also consider the Funder specific eligibility criteria for any exceptions (Annex IX). In addition, it is not possible for one person to serve as coordinator of more than one proposal (see chapter 4.2, criteria #12).

**If an organisation is already participating in Call1 and Call2 with a successful project as Coordinator, can they also apply as Coordinator for a project in Call3? Or would this be seen negatively by the evaluation committee?**

From the eligibility criteria, this is possible.

**If I understood correctly, the profile in the submission platform is linked to a researcher. The CV of the researcher is expected and the publications, does it mean that the coordinator should have an academic profile?**

The coordinator does not need to be a researcher, a non-academic coordinator is possible. However, a brief CV is needed in any case. This will be taken into consideration by the International Expert Panel to decide on the scientific excellence and impact of the project..

**Can the consortium accept other small farm organizations to partner with them in other developing countries like South Sudan?**

It is possible to have a partner from South Sudan. However, a partner from South Sudan is not eligible to receive funding as there are no Funders from South Sudan involved in this call.

**Can Joint Stock Consortia (e.g., regional authorities, working together with farmers associations or single farmers) participate?**

This is possible. Please check the applicable Funder regulations in terms of eligibility of the partners (see Annex IX). In case some partners are not eligible, it is possible for those partners to join a consortium as associated partners on own resources. Here a letter of commitment is obligatory (see chapter 4.2, criteria #8).

**Some Funders stipulate that all proposal applicants must hold a doctoral degree. Does this exclude early career researchers without a doctoral degree from collaborating on the project if it receives funding?**

From the general eligibility criteria, there are no restrictions in terms of young researchers and the obligation of a doctoral degree. However, it is possible that some Funders have included such restrictions in the Funder specific regulations (see Annex IX).

**Is it correct that partnering must only be through the partnering request tool?**

No, the partnering tool is a service provided by the call office to support you to build your consortium but you may well use any other channels.

**At what point do the partners deal with the Funders contact point? Is it before submitting the pre proposal or when the proposal is approved?**

The Funder Contact Point shall be contacted in all requests dealing with the respective Funder specific rules and doubts about them. This can be during the pre as well as full proposal phase.

**I read about universities and higher education. How about Vocational Education & Training (VET). Can that type of education participates to?**

This depends on the specific Funder regulation, if this type of partner is eligible to receive funding (see Annex IX for details).

**In which case Letter of Financial Commitment is needed?**

This is needed for all associated partners, which are partners not requesting funding from one of the listed Funders, but participating as partners in a consortium on own resources (see chapter 4.2, criteria #8).

**My question is, if a person is an independent researcher, can they apply for funding? And a person from EU-extra (e. g. Turkey) can be eligible for apply?**

This is up to the individual Funder regulation as outlined in Annex IX. Here you can check whether the applicable Funder of your country/region provides funding to independent researchers. Only applicants from countries and regions listed in Annex I of the call announcement may be eligible to receive funding, subject to the respective applicable Funder regulation. Regarding the example from the question, a Funder from Türkiye participates in this call.

**Is it possible for subcontractors (practice partners) in Germany to be involved in two Project proposals that have different focuses.**

Organisations which are subcontracted are not partners of the consortium. The eligibility of subcontracts is subject to the funder specific rules. For Germany, consider national regulation.

**Is it possible to have 2 partners in a country applying as a consortium for funds from that country funder?**

According to the general eligibility criteria, this is possible, however please also check the restrictions of the funder regulations. And in terms of the general eligibility criteria, the eligibility criteria #7, that at least 3 partners must be from 3 different countries and request funds from 3 different organisations.

### 1.1.3 Consortium Composition

**Is there a minimum of partners? And all of these partners can be funded with this call or do they need their own funding?**

Research consortia must consist of a minimum of three Partners requesting funding from at least three different Members States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries and Funders of this Co-funded call. Applicants, not requesting funding from any Funder are defined as Associated Partner and cannot be Coordinator.

**Am I understanding correctly that: successful application is only possible for a consortium consisting of three organisations from three (or more) different countries as this composition is the only way to apply to three different funders? So, it is mandatory to cooperate across borders?**

Yes, understood correctly. "Research consortia must consist of a minimum of three partners requesting funding from at least three different Members States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries and Funders of this Co-funded call." (chapter 4.2, criterion #7).

**Are consortiums encouraged to be open and inclusive or exclusive and competitive?**

Consortia shall be structured to ensure the highest possible scientific excellence and project impact, with no restrictions on the number of partners (beyond the requirement of three funding countries referred to above). This is a competitive call for proposals.

**Having big partnerships of 8-10 members increase the chance to be funded or are small partnerships preferable? Considering the complicated system of funding, different for each country, and the limited budget for each country, probably big consortia are more difficult to be selected.**

There are no preferences in terms of the size of the consortium. The consortium shall fit to the proposals objectives.

**What are the consortium criteria? How are the assessed/judged?**

There are no specific criteria which will be assessed to the consortium itself. The proposal as such will be evaluated and scored as described in chapter 6.2 and 6.3, respectively.

**Are you looking for a consortium with partners from multiple countries, or does the composition not matter?**

The minimum is 3 partners from 3 different countries requesting funds from 3 participating Funders of this call (see chapter 4.2, criteria #7). There are no evaluation criteria saying that consortium of more than 3 countries have an advantage over consortia with the minimum number of countries only. Important is rather the fact that the consortium is appropriate to meet the set targets, aims and ambitions of the proposal.

**Does the consortium need to contain a research partner (university or university of applied sciences) or can the consortium consist fully of other types of partners (companies, farms, regional authorities etc.)?**



There are no eligibility criteria to this aspect, so it is not mandatory to have a research partner in a consortium, besides specific funders rules. However, this call is about a call for proposals in research and innovation. Please carefully read the scope and objectives and the evaluation criteria in the call announcement to check if you address all aspects (see chapter 3 and 6). Please do also consider the specific Funder Regulations (Annex IX), if specific rules apply for certain funders.

**Suppose its consortium of Partners from the Sub-Saharan part of Africa. Is that consortium eligible for this call?**

This is a co-funded call implemented in the framework of the partnership AGROECOLOGY (so-called cascade funding). For this, the funding is provided on national/regional level from the participating Funders only. Thus, applicants from Sub Saharan part of Africa are not eligible as no Funder from Africa in general is participating in this call. They can participate on own resources as partner to a consortium.

## 1.2 Budget

**Is it possible to make any changes in the financial plan between PP and FP? If the max of 60%-man months is kept**

According to the general eligibility criteria this is possible, however please check with the funding agencies beforehand!

**Is it correct that the amount each partner quotes in a proposal depends on the contribution/funding amount of their respective funding country?**

Yes, this is correct. The funding is provided on national/regional level. Thus, the applicable rules of the Funders need to be respected (see Annex IX).

**How do we set up a budget with partners from different countries? If Funders have different funding rules?**

The maximum budget for each partner is outlined in the respective Funder regulations (see Annex IX). Example: an Estonian Funder provides 100,000 € per project and corresponding partner(s), a German Funder 250,000 € per project and its corresponding partner(s) and a Finish Funder of 250,000 €. This means, the Estonian partner plans a budget for the work that he/she is carrying out of a maximum of 100,000 € whereas the German partner of a maximum of 250,000 € and the Finish partner of 250,000 €, respectively. In total, the project has a maximum of 600,000 € requested funding, distributed among the partner according to the Funder's specific project limit for Estonia, Germany and Finland. In the current example this would also mean that the budget remains the same if a 2<sup>nd</sup> German partner joins the consortium. Thus, both German partners will share the maximum funding of 250,000 €. In case the 4<sup>th</sup> partner is from a different country, e.g. France, the total budget for the entire project will increase by the portion from the French partner. Please note that the figures above are meant as an example only, please consider the Funder regulations for all details and exceptions for maximum funding.

**Are there a limit per expenditure types (for example max 20% for travels, etc)**

This is up to the individual funder regulations (Annex IX).

### 1.2.1 Funding

**Who provides funding for coordination of the project? Any specific rules/restrictions on this (maybe depending on national funding agency)?**

Correct, this is up to the individual funding regulations, some funders provide some extra funds, if you are coordinator.

**Total possible funding per applying organisation please, thanks.**

The maximum funding per project differs between the different Funders. Please refer to the Annex IX Funder regulations, which you can find in the submission tool.

**So it is not possible to apply to a Funder from a different Country? E.g.: a German institution applying for Topic 2 cannot apply in e.g. France?**

In principle, no, normally there is nothing such as "cross border" funding. So, the funds from the funders are provided to the applicants of their country/region. However of course, we as call office cannot speak on behalf of all funders. So, it might be the case that individual funders have different rules/possibilities.

**Each of the project partners has to negotiate with his national funding organisation separate or is there a coordination?**

Indeed negotiation is on bilateral level between one funder and the partner requesting funds as the final grant agreement is also between one partner and its funder only.

**Can a consortium, applying for funding from three different sources in three different countries, work on different aspects of the same sub-topic?**

The work plan of a project should be coherent with its objectives, expected outcomes, and expected impact. It may involve the distribution of work among partners (and countries) across different aspects of the same sub-topic.

The consortium as a whole does not apply for funding, instead each partner will request funding from its funding agency. Funding is provided on individual basis between the funder and each partner .Example: A French research organisation may apply for funding from ANR and the German researcher of this consortium must apply for funding from the BMFT.

**Can an organization be a Partner (not associated partner) to a Coordinator / PI from a different country, thereby receiving the foreign funds as a partner to the Coordinator / PI from that country?**

Normally there is nothing such as "cross border" funding. So, the funds from the funders are provided to the applicants of their country/region. However of course, we as call office cannot speak on behalf of all funders. So, it might be the case that individual funders have different rules/possibilities. In addition, funds must be received from a funding agency listed in the call document.

**If there are two Funders in one country - how can I know which of them will be my Funder? Is this dependent on the topic?**

Please check the regulations of both Funders, sometimes you will be eligible only for one of them. In case you are eligible to receive funding from both of them, we recommend to get in contact with the Funder Contact Point (FCP) and ask for advice.

**Is Morocco an eligible country for partners or only as associated partner?**

This is a co-funded call implemented in the framework of the partnership AGROECOLOGY (so-called cascade funding). For this, the funding is provided on national/regional level from the participating Funders only. Thus, applicants from Morocco are not eligible as no Funder from



Morocco is participating in this call. They can participate on own resources as partner to a consortium.

**Does the funding for a given project comes from all three of the countries involved or only from the country of the coordinator? If the former, should we be strategic about who we list as coordinator based on funds available etc.?**

The funding for this call is provided as so-called virtual common pot. This means that funding for each partner and coordinator will be provided by its applicable national/regional funding agency as listed in Annex IX – Funder regulations. As an example: an applicant from France has to check if its organisation is eligible to receive funding from ANR. The coordinator role shall be chosen by the consortium based on their needs and preferences. The call office cannot provide any support on the decision making here.

**Do I understand correctly that the budget from the national Funder (e.g. 250.000€) is the total budget for all project partners of the respective country?**

Please check each individual Funder regulation if this is the case. The maximum amount of funding may differ in case of several partners of one country participating in one proposal; and, in some cases depending on the role of the partner, as a partner or as a coordinator, may have an influence on the total amount of funding budget per proposal. It also depends if there are several funders in the same country.

**Could partners of the same country request funding from different Funders within the same country?**

From a call office perspective this is possible. As an example: There are three different Funders from Spain participating in a call. However, each Funder may have different target groups: CDTI provides funding to companies only, whereas AEI provides funds to universities and research institutes. In case of uncertainties, e.g. if one partner is eligible to receive funds from either Funder in his/her country, please contact the Funder Contact Point (FCP) and ask for recommendation. We highly recommend to carefully consider Annex IX and get in contact with the FCP in case of any questions raised.

**Can UK Universities participate in the proposal?**

This is a co-funded call implemented in the framework of the partnership AGROECOLOGY (so-called cascade funding). For this, the funding is provided on national/regional level from the participating Funders only. Thus, universities from the UK are not eligible to receive funds as no Funder from the UK is participating in this call. However, universities from the UK can participate on own resources as partner to a consortium.

**Can Lesotho participate in this Horizon Europe call for proposals as a third world country in collaboration with the EU member states or associated states?**

This is a co-funded call implemented in the framework of the partnership AGROECOLOGY (so-called cascade funding). For this, the funding is provided on national/regional level from the participating Funders only. Thus, applicants from Lesotho are not eligible as no Funder from the Lesotho is participating in this call. However, applicants from Lesotho can participate on own resources as partner to a consortium.

**If a consortium is made up of researchers from different countries, should each researcher apply for funding from his/her country?**

At a first stage the researchers submit a pre proposal and in case of success will be invited to submit a full proposal. At both phases, the researchers already include a budget table on the total amount of requested funding per category. However, the grant negotiation process between researcher and its Funder will start after the full proposal selection.

**If any of the consortium partners does not have 'Funders' in his/her home country, can the grant be applied for with his/her participation?**

No, grants can be only provided by Funders to their applicants in their country/region. In exceptional cases a so-called cross-border funding is eligible, meaning Funders provides funds to researchers which are not based in their country. This needs to be clarified on individual basis with the individual Funder.

**Can we use the budgets of our partners from other countries in our own country?**

The so-called cross border funding is possible from the general eligibility criteria. However, this remains an exceptional case and this needs to be clarified on individual basis with each Funder.

**Will there be the additional funding available for the partner coordinating the project? Or, it's just within the budget as stated in the call for different countries?**

There is no additional budget foreseen from the partnership for the coordinator of one proposal. However, some Funders increase the maximum limit per project, if the coordinator role is taken over by "their" applicants. Please check the Funder regulations for details (see Annex IX).

### 1.3 Selection

**Different Funders have different max budget. So, if a country has many applications, is it possible that the proposal is rejected, because one of the partners' Funders is out of budget?**

During the pre-proposal phase the selection is based on the two ranking lists (one per Topic) and the availability of funds. During this selection a balance of requested funds among all Funders will be taken into consideration when selecting pre proposals to be invited to submit a full proposal (see chapter 5.1.3). During the full proposal selection, each ranking list must be followed. The selection will stop, when the amount of available funds is exhausted (see chapter 5.3.3). This means that in both phases (pre and full proposal), proposals might be not selected due to a lack of funding.

**How are projects selected, if the both are ranked equally?**

Equally scored proposals are equally ranked. If it is not possible to select both proposals due to lack of funding, the Funders Board will decide which proposal will be selected.

**How does the proposal selection work when there is co-funding? Is there a global evaluation of proposals and all the top ones get funded? Or could your proposal be ranked high and not get funded because the funding of one of your partners have met their countries' quota?**

Evaluation is done as described in chapter 6 of the call document, so there will be an international evaluation panel, evaluating the proposals. There will be one ranking list per Topic, at PP phase the selection to be invited for FP is based on ranking list and availability of funds. For FP the ranking lists must be followed according to HEU rules, see also chapter 5, subsection on selection

## 1.4 Evaluation

**I guess the question regarding consortium criteria could be understood like if the identity of the applicants is relevant or it is a double-blind review?**

No, the evaluation is not conducted as double-blind review. Please check chapter 6 for full details on the evaluation procedure.

**During the previous call, each stage was assessed by different reviewers with varying backgrounds, which significantly affected the outcome. Will the two evaluation stages be more harmonised this time?**

The evaluation panel was the same for both stages pre and full proposal in call2. However, it might be possible that one evaluator dropped out between pre and full proposal and was then substituted by one expert from the existing panel.

## 1.5 Others

### 1.5.1 General

**If selected during the preproposal stage, when are consortia likely to get the invitation to prepare the full proposal?**

The invitation will be sent out end of April 2026.

**Could you clarify what info goes in the preproposal?**

All information is transferred from pre to full proposal in the submission system. Please check Annex II on the different elements for the pre proposal and Annex IV on the different additional elements for full proposal.

**Will you share the slides and a list of participants after the meeting?**

Slides are available; however, we do not share the list of participants due to our Data Protection Rules. In case you wish to get connected with potential applicants, please make use of our partnering tool: <https://agroecology.ptj.de/partnering>.

**Can in a single project different consortium partners have different duration of funding? E.g. a coordinator having of a three-year project having funding for 3 years, but another partner of the same consortium having funding for two years only?**

The entire project shall have a duration of min 24 months and max 36 months. The individual duration per partner need to fit the project needs and is in particular subject of the individual funding regulations (Annex IX).

**Is there access to an overview of the winners and the granted proposals from call 1?**

The proposals are already selected and results will be published soon on our website: <https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/>.

**What was the ratio of submitted and funded proposals for the first call?**

89 pre proposals have been submitted in response to the 1<sup>st</sup> co-funded call and in result of the evaluation by the International Expert Panel and selection by the Funders Board, 38 pre proposals have been invited to submit a full proposal. The result of the evaluation of full proposals and the selection by the Funders Board, 19 proposals were selected for funding. For more details, please

check on our recent  
<https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/news/newsletterdec2024>.

Newsletter:

**How many proposals will be funded under each topic?**

This cannot be answered as this depends on multiple aspects such as number of submitted pre proposals and invited full proposals, distributions of partners among the countries and budget of the Funders. However, the Funders Board anticipates a balanced distribution of selected projects among the themes and topics.

**What is the role of the Funders in evaluating and approval of the proposal?**

The Funders have no role in the evaluation procedure itself. The evaluation will be done by the International Expert Panel (see chapter 6) which is established by the call office and endorsed by the Funders. There is no approval of proposals by the Funders but an eligibility check of proposals based on the general eligibility criteria (call office) and the individual eligibility criteria defined by each Funder (done by each Funder), for more details please consider chapter 4.3 and chapter 5, respectively.

**Recognizing the consortium criteria that you have just reviewed, might the call also support work in regions outside the Horizon Europe or Agroecology Partnership geographic areas (e.g. comparative work that includes some European countries, and some outside Europe)?**

This work is supported, however for this call no Funder from outside Europe is participating in this call. Thus, potential partner not listed as participating countries and regions (see Annex 1) can participate on own resources only. However, it might be possible to have subcontracts with partner from outside Europe or to apply a so-called cross-border funding, which means that Funders provide funds to researchers which are not based in their country, in exceptional cases. This needs to be clarified on individual basis with each Funder.

**Will normal research and development possibly be funded in the next call for proposals especially for proposals that scored high in the last call?**

Proposals from previous call will not be automatically high ranked and considered for selection for the next call. In case a proposal was not successful in one call, this proposal can be resubmitted in a next call, if it fits to the scope and objectives of the call.

**Do the research and labs part of the project need to be developed in one of the three countries of the consortium?**

This depends on the structure of each proposal. There are no eligibility criteria which set rule to this specific aspect. The consortium shall be complementary, so that the transnational aspects benefit the proposal (chapter 6.2).

**What is the meaning of Annex XI List of beneficiaries of AGROECOLOGY (research performing organisations only)? Are only these organizers eligible to be funded partners in the projects?**

This list includes all Research Performing Organisations that are also partners in the partnership AGROECOLOGY. Annex XI is included for transparency issues and the listed organisations have no advantage in the competitive co-funded call towards other research performing organisations that are not part of the partnership AGROECOLOGY.

**Will new countries (and their national Funders until submission) join or will only conditions be updated as in the case of FORMAS (Sweden)?**

In principle it is possible that Funders may join during the submission phase, however this is very unlikely to happen. It is likely to happen that the conditions described by each Funder may be subject to change, e.g. some conditions will be added by more explanations, adaptations to budget. In such cases, this will be announced on the landing page of the submission website. Here you will always find the current version of the call announcement and Funder regulations incl. a brief description of adaptations/updates where applicable.

**Will the webinar be recorded and available afterwards?**

The webinar is recorded and the slides as well as the recordings will be available afterwards.

**Will there be a replay for those who did not participate in the entire webinar?**

The webinar is recorded and the slides as well as the recordings will be available afterwards.

### 1.5.2 Funder specific

**What is meant by "confirmation of the financial own contribution" for SME as requested by the BMFTR?**

Please contact the Funder Contact Point (FCP) of BMFTR for further details.

**In the case of the BMFTR, what is the regulation for the funding of non-profit organizations? Annex ix mentions this possibility, however it is not explicitly mentioned in the national Bekanntmachung...**

This needs to be clarified with the BMFTR contact points. In Germany e.g. the Leibniz centres are e.V. and per definition an NGO

**To clarify on BMFTR only supporting Topic 1. Can a German actor be part of a Topic 2-project as a partner, or not at all? That is neither as coordinator, nor as partner.**

A German actor can be an associated partner for a proposal in Topic 2 and must then secure its own expenses. A German actor cannot act as coordinator in topic 2 because BMFTR does not provide funding for topic 2.

### 1.5.3 Call3 specific

**Is Germany BMFTR only funding topic 1? That means that a German institution cannot apply to coordinate a project on topic 2?**

This is correct, BMFTR does support Topic 1 only, also here specific requirements need to be considered.

**If selected during the preproposal stage, when are consortia likely to get the invitation to prepare the full proposal?**

As stated in the call document, it will be end of April 2026.

**If projects start early 2027, for crops sown in September it means only 2 growing seasons are possible. Is it accepted to start in September 2027?**

This is up to the funder regulations, but in principle this is possible.

**Hi! Is the call only for the Europe or open to other regions/continents too?**

This is a co-funded call under Horizon Europe and as such, funding can be only provided to partners eligible to receive funds from funders listed in Annex IX of the call documents. Associated partners can participate on own costs, but cannot be coordinator.

**can you say, what the chances (%) of receiving funding are (with regard of the previous calls, perhaps you can give an estimate) ? How many Projects, will be funded per Topic?**

At the moment, the figures from call 1 and call 2 are the following, call 2 in brackets: 89 (87) PP submitted, 37 (33) invited for FP and 19 selected for funding in both calls.

## 1.6 Scope and topics

**Can proposals be focussed on a certain region in Europe with similar climates, or should they be focussed on covering a wide range of climates/environments in Europe?**

Proposals may focus on a specific region in Europe that shares similarities in climate or other agricultural characteristics, provided that they involve at least three different countries

**Do proposals need to involve one living lab per country ?**

Not necessarily. Proposals have to explain what are the complementarity among partners regarding the common objective of the proposal, and how they will contribute to the work plan.

**Do you need both livestock and plants in the proposal if submitting on topic 1?**

No. One subtopic in topic 1 is focused on plant breeding, one on animal breeding and other subtopics involve both livestock and animals. A proposal has to choose to address at least one subtopic.

**Does the call require that each consortium include both plant and animal components, or is it acceptable for a project to focus on only one of these areas? For clarity, is it mandatory to address both plant and animal genetic diversity within the same consortium?**

No it is not mandatory. You can choose to address only plants or only livestock or both.

**On subtopic 2.4, could we focus only on local public policies or do we need to address all policy levels?**

You can focus on local policies only.

**This call is for 3-year projects. Within three years, you won't get far with actual breeding. Breeding for new varieties typically takes 10-15 years. So my question is: how do you define 'breeding' within this call? Is the call actually more about pre-breeding and selection of existing varieties?**

In the call announcement you will find the following sentence for this topic "Given the maximum duration of the funded projects (3 years), projects under this topic are required to build on already acquired knowledge."

**Subtopic 2.2 appears to open for the possibility to address value chains, no?**

Subtopic 2.2 focuses on knowledge transfer to facilitate the agroecological transition. This may include different types of processes and actors, including those within value chains. One bullet point mentions the "role and effectiveness of farmers' groups, cooperatives, producers organisations, and multi-stakeholder platforms in accelerating agroecology adoption while considering how these entities enable access to and exchange of knowledge and market opportunities". Applicants may also develop other specific thematic within the objective of subtopic 2.2.



**Thank you for the definition of AE transition. Yet I find it difficult though to think of "organic farming" as this kind of blanket rule for being agroecological. The nuances a quite relevant and this approach reduces AE to just farming practices a bit too much**

The partnership defines agroecology in a way that goes beyond farming practices at the farm level, encompassing entire value chains (see the SRIA). This applies to this Call. In addition it is stated that in the Call text that projects may address conventional production systems in agroecological transition, organic farming systems, or both.

**A supplementary note: It seems necessary to describe agroecology more concretely as a holistic concept. Agroecology in Europe must face different economic and social conditions than agroecology in the countries of the South. This is often not taken into account.**

In the partnership, agroecology is defined as a holistic concept (see point 1.2.3 of the SRIA). This allows taking into account the specific environmental, social, and economic conditions of the agricultural contexts in which it is applied.

**Is it possible that within a consortium for topic 1.5, one or two project partners does breeding and one project partner focuses only on the value chain and does not do breeding? Or do all three partners have to do breeding?**

Not all partners have to engage in breeding. However, the integration of the different tasks undertaken by each partner should be defined in a complementary manner in order to achieve a common objective and address a specific research question related to the subtopic 1.5.

**Can a proposal focus on soil microbiome?**

No, a project cannot focus solely on the soil microbiome within the scope of this Call. The soil microbiome can, of course, be included in a project if relevant, but the project as a whole must fall within one of the subtopics of the two topics of the Call.

## 1.7 Submission tool

**Can you provide the code for figure attaching?**

Figures included in text fields within the submission tool can be embedded by `[[figure1]]`, if a respective figure is uploaded in the submission tool in menu "FIGURES".

**Can you share the link of the partnering tool please?**

<https://agroecology.ptj.de/partnering>

**Do figures count as characters in the total character count?**

yes the command "`[[figure1]]`" counts towards the minimum number of characters, not the figure itself.

## 1.8 Partnering tool

**Kindly explain the difference between a partner requesting and offering partnership. What is the criteria?**

The partner request might be used if you have already a consortium and/or an idea of a proposal but lacking a certain expertise or an additional partner to fulfil certain tasks. For this you would use the partner request option and search for a specific type of partner. The partner offer



might be used, if you like to join a consortium with your expertise but you do not have your own project idea.

Where can one find the Partnering Tool? On the slide there was not specific site / link mentioned  
<https://agroecology.ptj.de/partnering>